

To the FCC

The issue of unwanted telemarketing calls to a home address is one that is really pretty simple - it should not be as easy to do as it is now. Yes, a business should have the right to solicit customers, but to do so in the manner that telemarketing allows is both unprofessional and a nuisance. Some states, such as Indiana, have already passed laws to deal with this sort of thing.

As I understand it, the FCC is now contemplating ordering a single nationwide standard for the telemarketing industry. This would be a mistake for many reasons - however, for the sake of brevity, I will limit myself to just 2.

1) The Federal Government was not supposed to become an all encompassing governing body. In it's earliest form, it had essentially just 3 powers - handle international relations (up to and including war); handle disputes between the states; and provide for the common defense of the country. If the FCC thinks it should override something that a state has enacted, I believe it is in essence usurping power from that state. Let's not let the government get any bigger than it is already, nor let it try to place a single standard over the many diverse populations that make up this county.

2) An issue that has no relation to telemarketing actually has established some precedent for how the FCC should approach this issue. For some time now, the issue of obsenity has been determined by LOCAL standards. The government wisely decided that it could not impose one national standard for the entire country to follow, so it left the definition of acceptable or not acceptable up to local government. I believe that on the issue of telemarketing the FCC would be wise to follow this course and leave local governments to determine what the best course of action should be.

If the FCC feels it absolutely MUST impose some sort of minimum bar nationwide for this, PLEASE do not force local laws to be brought DOWN to the minimum standard imposed. Make sure that any state is free to impose limits on the telemarketing industry that are MORE strict than the national standard if it is deemed in the best interest of the local community.

Thank you for your attention.

Rick Lacy
Indianapolis, IN